

Town of Hobson City

Alberta C. McCrory
Mayor

715 Martin Luther King Drive
Hobson City, Alabama 36201
(256) 831-4940
Established August 16, 1899

Jessie Lancaster
City Clerk/Treasurer

COUNCIL

Susie B. Jones
Place No. 1

O'Mildred Ball
Place No. 2

Deneva Barnes
Place No. 3

Frederick Striplin
Place No. 4

Willie J. Elston
Place No. 5

July 19, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Regarding the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA, docket WT 11-65:

Dear Mr. Chairman & Commissioners:

I serve as Mayor of Hobson City, established on August 16, 1899, the oldest incorporated African-American City in the State of Alabama, and the third oldest incorporated African-American city in the United States.

The purpose of my letter is to express to you my enthusiasm for the proposed merger of the AT&T and T-Mobile USA telecommunications companies.

AT&T has always been supportive of African American institutions in the South and in Alabama. Their presence is a positive one and the added people and resources of T-Mobile will enhance it.

Their merger will also help close a "technology divide" that still exists in this country. The best technology – the sophisticated high-speed wireless networks of the major cities – is still largely non-existent in smaller towns and rural areas. These networks are the future, and towns like Hobson City require them every bit as much as Atlanta or Miami. I believe AT&T and T-Mobile will bring such networks to Alabama and our area.

If our young people are to be ready for the jobs of the coming decades, they have to be able to learn how to use technology to better themselves and serve employers after they leave school. Without it, we are condemning them to a life of digital illiteracy – every bit as challenging for them as gaining the ability to read and write were for my ancestors in the nineteenth century.

With all the talk in Washington about jobs and the future, I think this merger is a step in the right direction. I hope you will take action to make it happen soon.

Sincerely,


Alberta C. McCrory